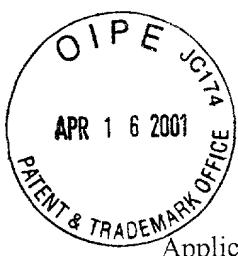


#3



PATENT
Docket No. SOM920000015US1/1963-7407

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Lipscomb et al.

BOX MISSING PARTS

Serial No.: 09/749,407

Group Art Unit: 2611

Filed: December 28, 2000

Examiner: Unassigned

For: INTERACTIVE TV CONTEXTUAL CONTENT SURFING USING INTER-
CHANNEL HYPERLINKING: SYSTEMS, METHODS & PROGRAM
PRODUCTS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please replace the designated portions of the above-identified application prior to examination in order to correct some minor informalities as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, first paragraph, which begins at line 7, replace as follows:

Co-pending application entitled "Interactive TV Audience Estimation and Program Rating for Real-Time Using Multi Level Tracking Methods, Systems and Program Products" (SOM9-2000-0013) by James S. Lipscomb, Lurng-Kuo Liu and Liang-Jie Zhang, Serial Number 09/749,670, filed December 28, 2000, assigned to the same assignee as that of the present invention and fully incorporated herein by reference.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Applicants submit herewith a substitute Abstract of the Disclosure, revised as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.72(b).

Serial No.: 09/749,407

Docket No. SOM920000015US1/1963-7407

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Applicants submit herewith substitute Figures 3 and 5 to correct minor informalities, revised as required under 37 CFR 1.84. No new matter has been introduced

REMARKS

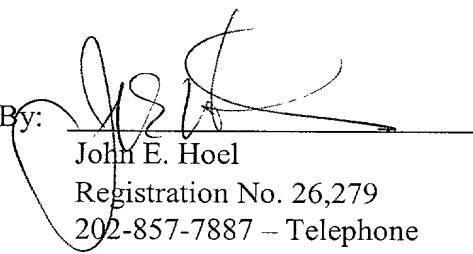
The above-identified changes are requested prior to examination in order to correct minor informalities and to add clarity to the application. No new matter has been introduced. In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, Attachment A, showing a mark-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current Amendment is attached hereto.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the timely consideration of this amendment under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment to IBM Corporation's Deposit Account No. 09-0459, Order No. SOM920000015US1/1963-7407.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: April 16, 2001

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PATENT
Docket No. SOM920000015US1/1963-7407

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Lipscomb et al.

BOX MISSING PARTS

Serial No.: 09/749,407

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Examiner:

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PRODUCTS

ATTACHMENT A

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, first paragraph, line 10, has been AMENDED as follows:

Co-pending application entitled "Interactive TV Audience Estimation and Program
Rating for Real-Time Using Multi Level Tracking Methods, Systems and Program Products"
SOM9-2000-0013) by James S. Lipscomb, Lurng-Kuo Liu and Liang-Jie Zhang, Serial Number
09/749,670, filed December 28, 2000, assigned to the same assignee as that of the present
invention and fully incorporated herein by reference.